U.S. Military Medicine in International Humanitarian Assistance

Global Medicine
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CMOC	Civil-Military Operation Center
DOS	Department of State
DR	Disaster Relief
EP	Excess Property
HA	Humanitarian Assistance
HACC	Humanitarian Assistance Coordination Center (Cell)
HCA	Humanitarian Civic Assistance
HOC	Humanitarian Operations Center
IO	International Organization (UN, World Bank, etc)
MEDCAP	Medical Civic Assistance Project
MEDRETE	Medical Readiness Training Exercise
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
OFDA	Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID)
OHDACA	Overseas Humanitarian Disaster and Civic Aid
OOTW	Operations Other Than War
USAID	US Agency for International Development
VA	(Landmine) Victims Assistance

Purpose of the Briefing

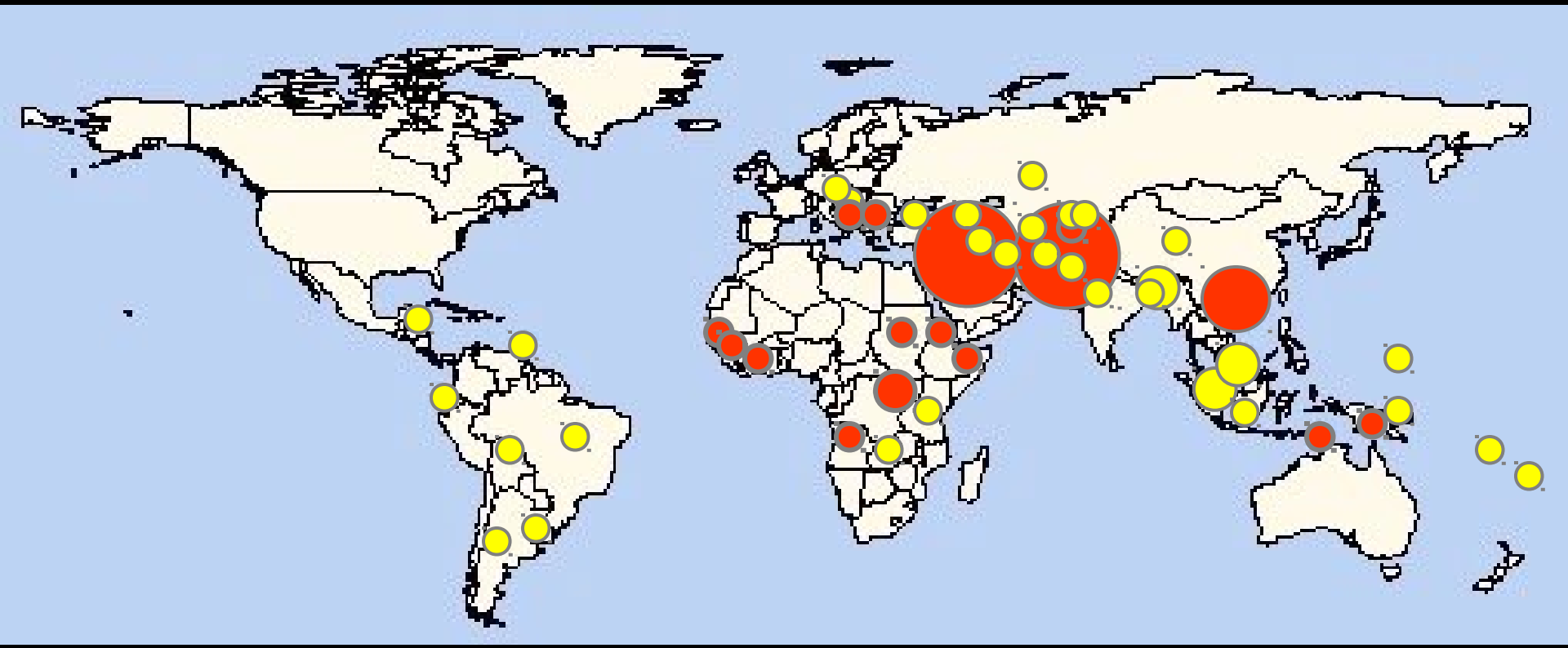
Describe Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HA/DR) organizations, programs, and coordination mechanisms

Discuss pitfalls of humanitarian programs and possible fixes

What is Humanitarian Assistance?

The provision of goods and services to foreign nations to address humanitarian needs

People Affected by Emergencies



Source UNOCHA, EHA

Numbers of people affected

- 0 - 10m
- 11 - 20m
- 20m or more

- Complex Emergencies
- Natural Disasters

Total 418 million people

Humanitarian Continuum

Justice

Agriculture

Transportation

Development

Public Health & Medicine

Public Utilities

Education & Training

Disaster Response

Natural Disasters

Complex Emergencies

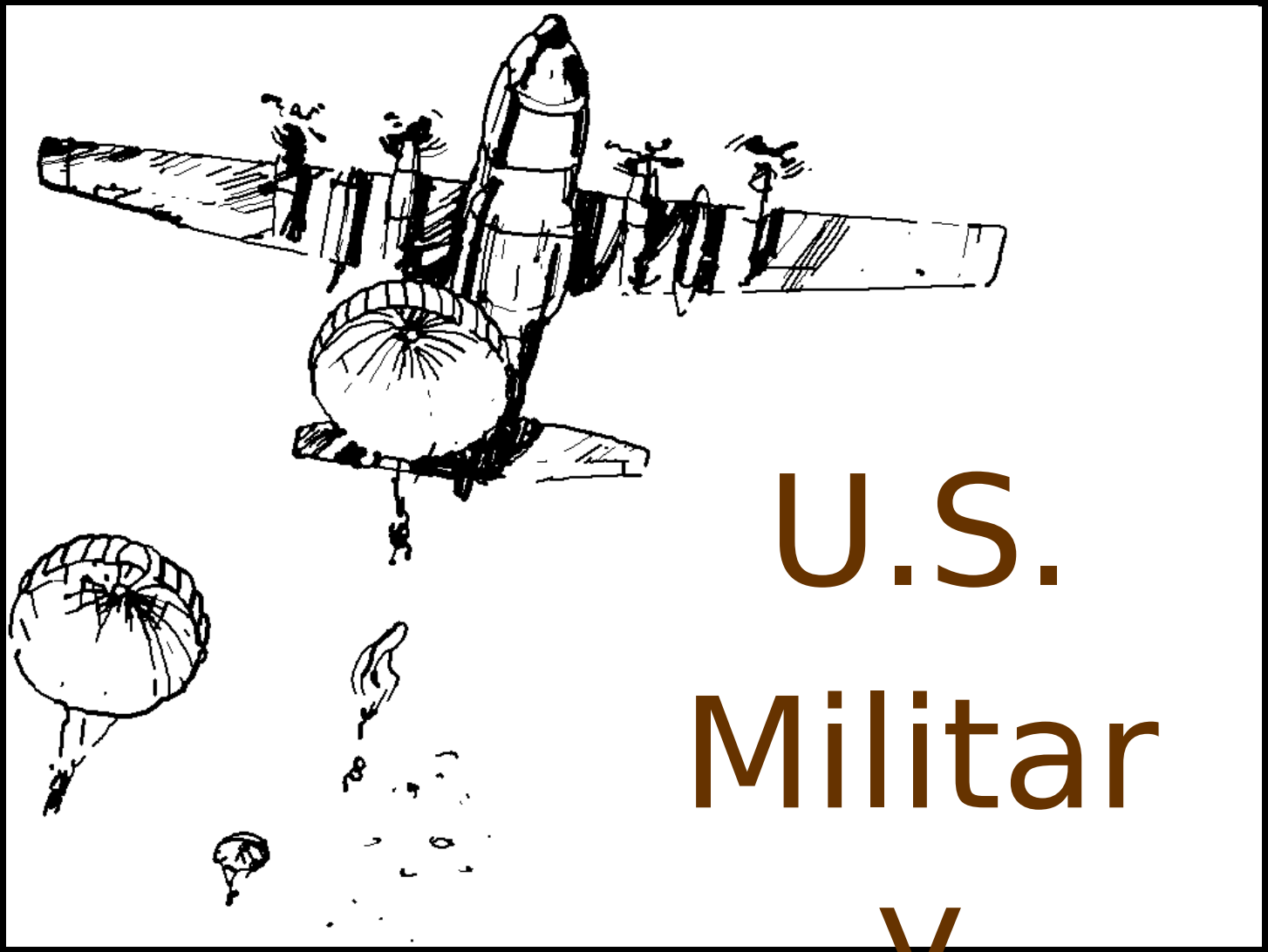
Why is DoD involved?

- Foot in the door (engagement)
- Training of US personnel
- Stabilization
- Professionalization of HN military
- We have the capabilities

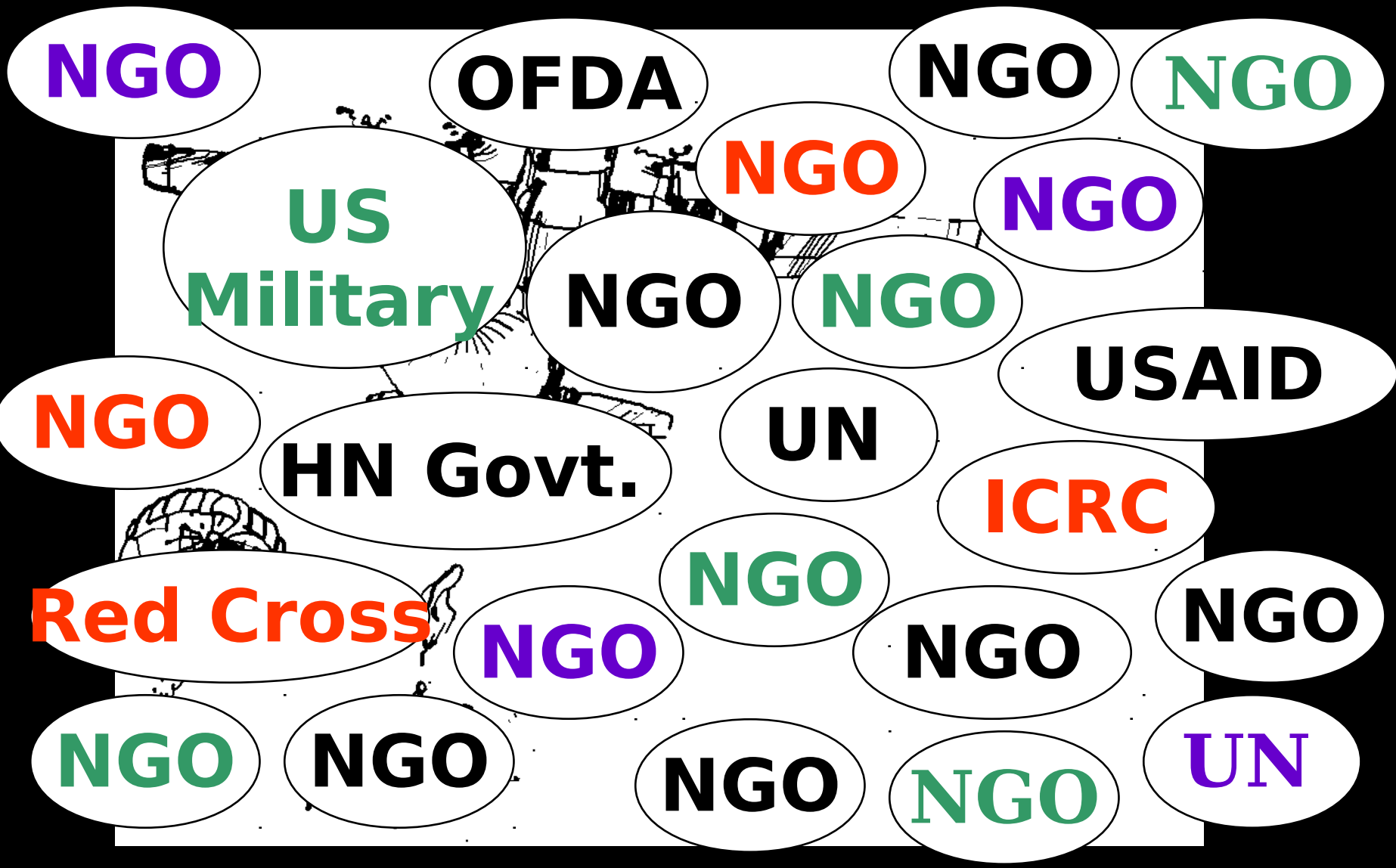
Concerns about Military Involvement

- View of HA organizations
  - Militaries are political and should stick to providing security
  - Neutrality of humanitarian organizations who work with the military is compromised
  - Threatens security of HA personnel

- View of line commanders
  - Detracts from military training and readiness



U.S. Military


NGO
OFDA
NGO
NGO
NGO
US Military
NGO
NGO
NGO
NGO
USAID
NGO
HN Govt.
UN
ICRC
Red Cross
NGO
NGO
NGO
NGO
NGO
NGO
NGO
NGO
UN

The “Players”

Donors

Recipients

- Donor Govts
- Foundations
- World Bank
- IOs
- NGOs
- Regional Orgs

Executors

- HN Govts
- IOs
- NGOs
- Contractors
- Donor Govts
- Militaries

- HN Govts
- HN Civilians

Host Nation Government

- Ministry of Health
- Ministry of Defense
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Ministry of Agriculture
- Ministry of Interior
- Disaster Response Agency
- etc, etc

International Organizations (IOs)

United Nations

UN High Commissioner for Refugees UNHCR

World Food Program WFP

United Nations Children's Fund UNICEF

World Health Organization WHO

UN Development Program UNDP

Office for the Coord. of Humanitarian Affairs UNOCHA

Military Civil Defense Unit MCDU

International Organizations (IOs)

- Red Cross/Red Crescent
  International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)
  International Federation of Red Cross Societies (IFRC)

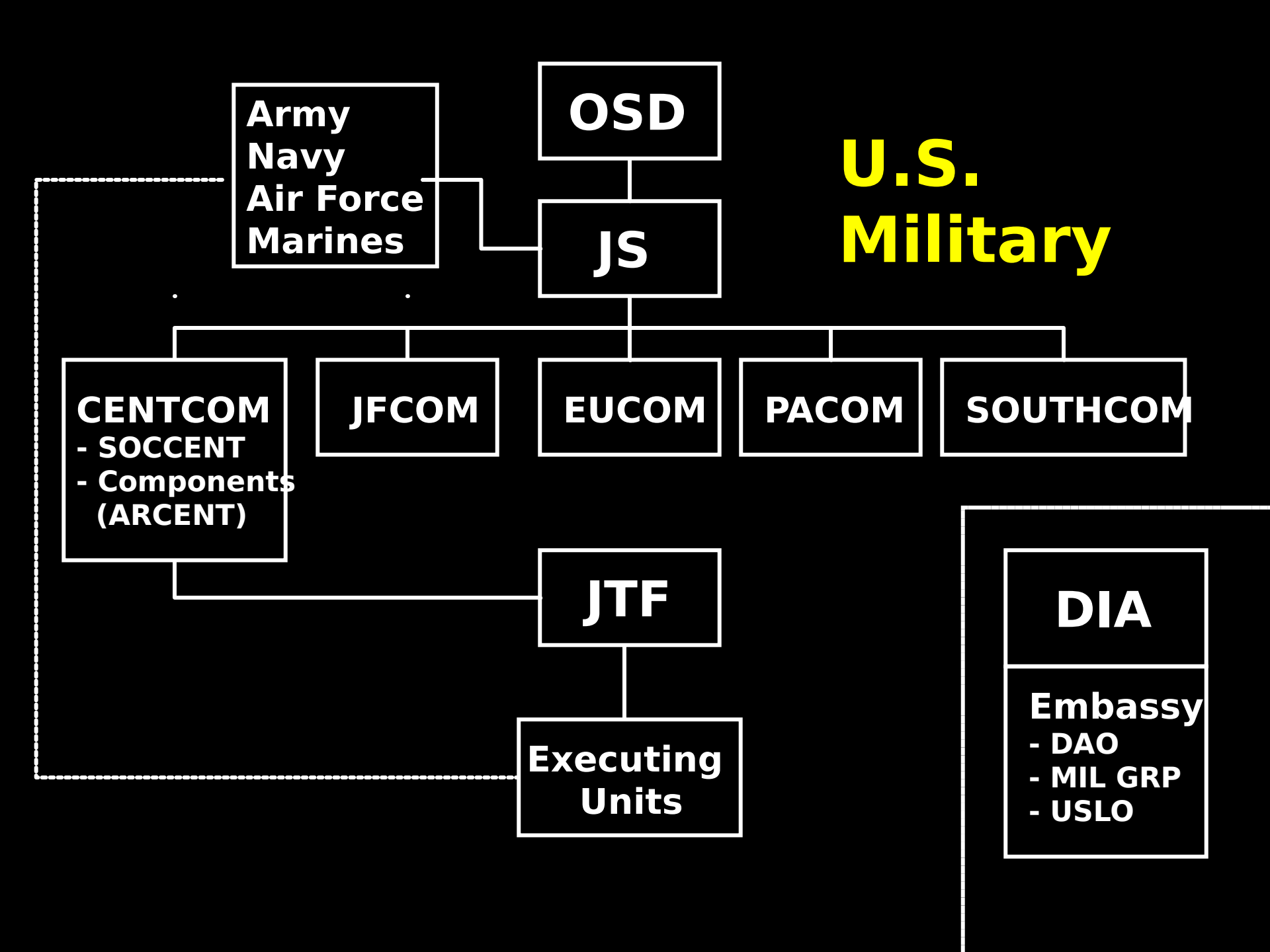
- International Organization for Migration (IOM)

Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)

- CARE
- Doctors Without Borders (MSF)
- Save the Children
- OXFAM
- Catholic Relief Services
- World Vision
- International Rescue Committee
- International Medical Corps
- etc, etc, etc

U.S. Government

- National Security Council (NSC)
- Department of State (DOS)
- US Agency for International Development (USAID)
  - Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA)
- Immigration and Naturalization Services (INS)
- Department of Justice (DOJ)
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- Department of Defense (DOD)


U.S. Military
Army
Navy
Air Force
Marines
OSD
JS
CENTCOM
- SOCCENT
- Components (ARCENT)
JFCOM
EUCOM
PACOM
SOUTHCOM
JTF
Executing Units
DIA
Embassy
- DAO
- MIL GRP
- USLO

Programs

Humanitarian Civic Assistance (HCA) Program

Humanitarian and Civic Assistance (HCA) Program

- Authorized by:
  - Title 10 US Code Section 401
  - DODD 2205.2
  - DODI 2205.3
  - DoD Appropriations Act
- Funded by the Combatant Commands
  - Army (EUCOM, SOUTHCOM)
  - Navy (PACOM)
  - Air Force (CENTCOM)
- Funds have limited uses

Humanitarian and Civic Assistance (HCA) Program

- Must:
  - enhance the specific operational skills of the members of the Armed Forces who participate
  - Promote the security interests of the US and recipient country
  - be approved by the State Department
  - be in conjunction with authorized military operations
  - be rudimentary activities in rural or underserved areas of a country
- Must not:
  - directly or indirectly benefit military or paramilitary individuals or organizations except when an activity is the primary support for the civilian population

Humanitarian and Civic Assistance (HCA) Program

Examples

- Medical care: MEDCAPs/MEDRETES, DENTCAP
- Veterinary care: VETCAP
- Rudimentary public construction projects:
  - Schools
  - Hospitals and clinics
  - Water - wells and distribution projects
  - Sanitation projects
  - Surface transportation systems

Humanitarian and Civic Assistance (HCA) Program

Benefits

- Team building
- Travel to a developing country
- Practice with deployment equipment sets in austere locations
- Exposure to other cultures, languages
- Learn about new diseases
- Engagement with HN and NGO providers
- Retention (“reason I joined the military”)

Humanitarian and Civic Assistance (HCA) Program

Possible Pitfalls

Questionable quality of patient care

- Limited diagnostic capability - vital signs difficult to obtain
- Huge patient load - success based on numbers of patients seen
- Uncertain understanding and compliance
- Pill swapping
- Limited referral and continuity of care
- Does not address underlying cause of disease

Questionable training value for US personnel

- Limited diagnostic capability
- Limited knowledge of the endemic diseases
- Many “patients” are simply curious

Humanitarian and Civic Assistance (HCA) Program

Possible Fixes

- Allow adequate time for planning and coordination
- Coordinate with HN, NGOs, IOs
- Insist on direct participation of HN physicians
- Pre-arrange referral and follow-up
- Have well planned triage and crowd control procedures
- Insist on basic lab capabilities
- Prepare appropriate medication labels prior to the mission
- Include patient education programs, public health activities
- Resist quantity over quality

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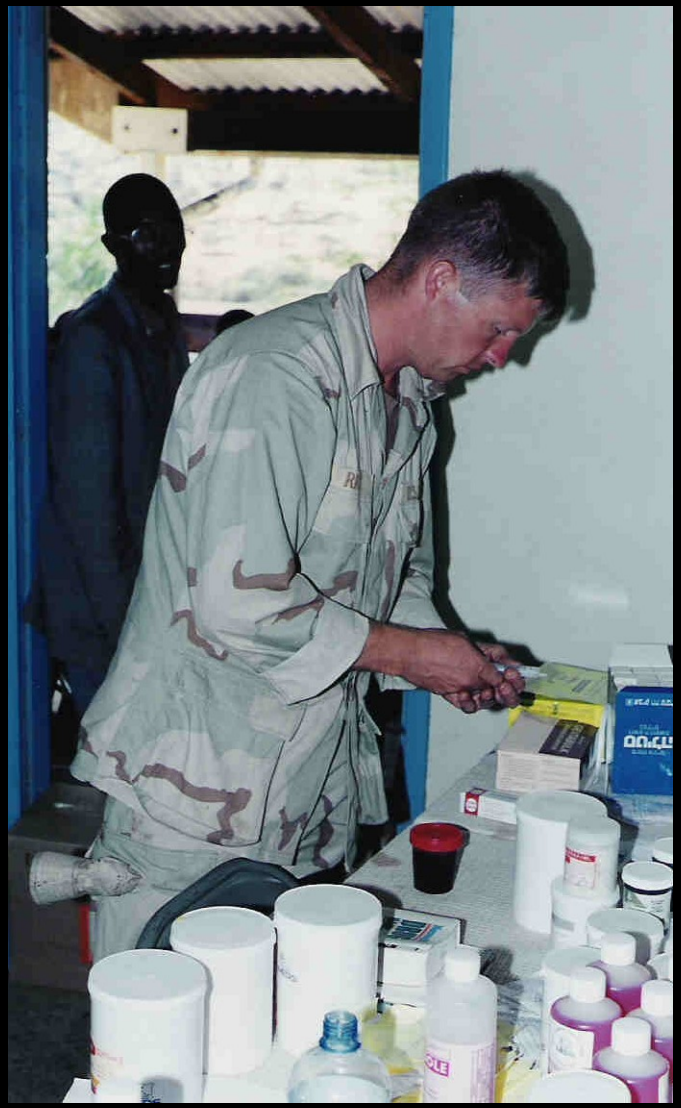

MOTT
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DoD Non-Lethal Excess Property (EP) Program

Excess Property Program

- Authorized by Title 10 USC Sections 2557 and 2561
- Permits DoD to make available, prepare (refurbish), and transport non-lethal excess property to foreign countries when requested by the Department of State
- Formal process – can’t just give away equipment
- Examples:
  - Clothing
  - Tents
  - Office and school furniture
  - Medical equipment and supplies (not medications)
  - Generators
  - Vehicles and construction equipment
  - Tools

Excess Property Program

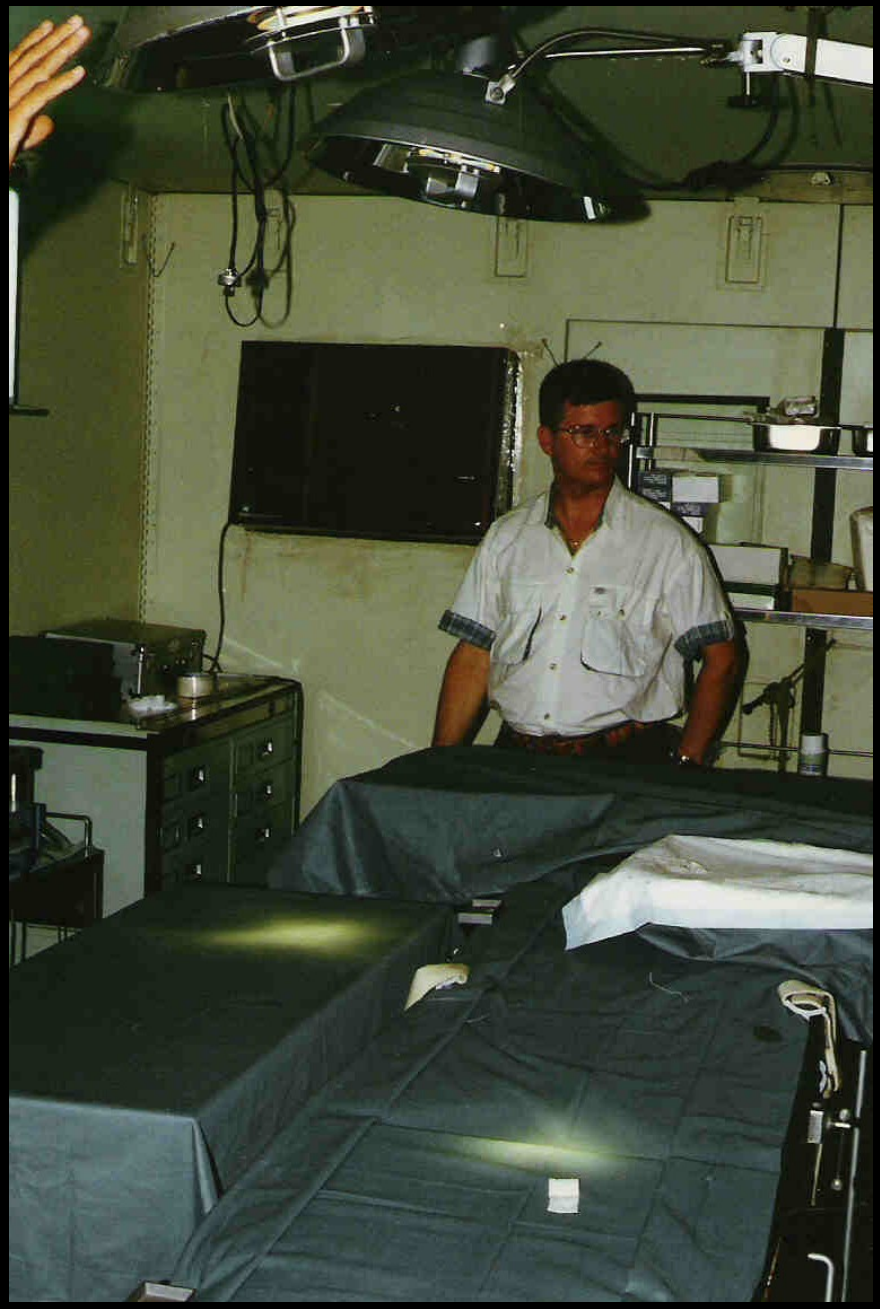
Potential Pitfalls

- Equipment used by private sector or military / paramilitary organizations
- Equipment is inappropriate for a particular situation:
  - Wrong electrical setup
  - No water supply
  - No expertise in use, repair, calibration
  - No supply chain (i.e. x-ray film)
  - Inadequate facility
  - Inadequate security

Excess Property Program

Potential Fixes

- Do site surveys
- Combine with other HA or HCA projects to build a proper building with proper utilities
- Send in training teams to teach use and repair of equipment
- Partner with HN, NGOs, IOs for follow-on maintenance
- Go back for evaluation visits to see how the donation is working out



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STERILE
WHITE

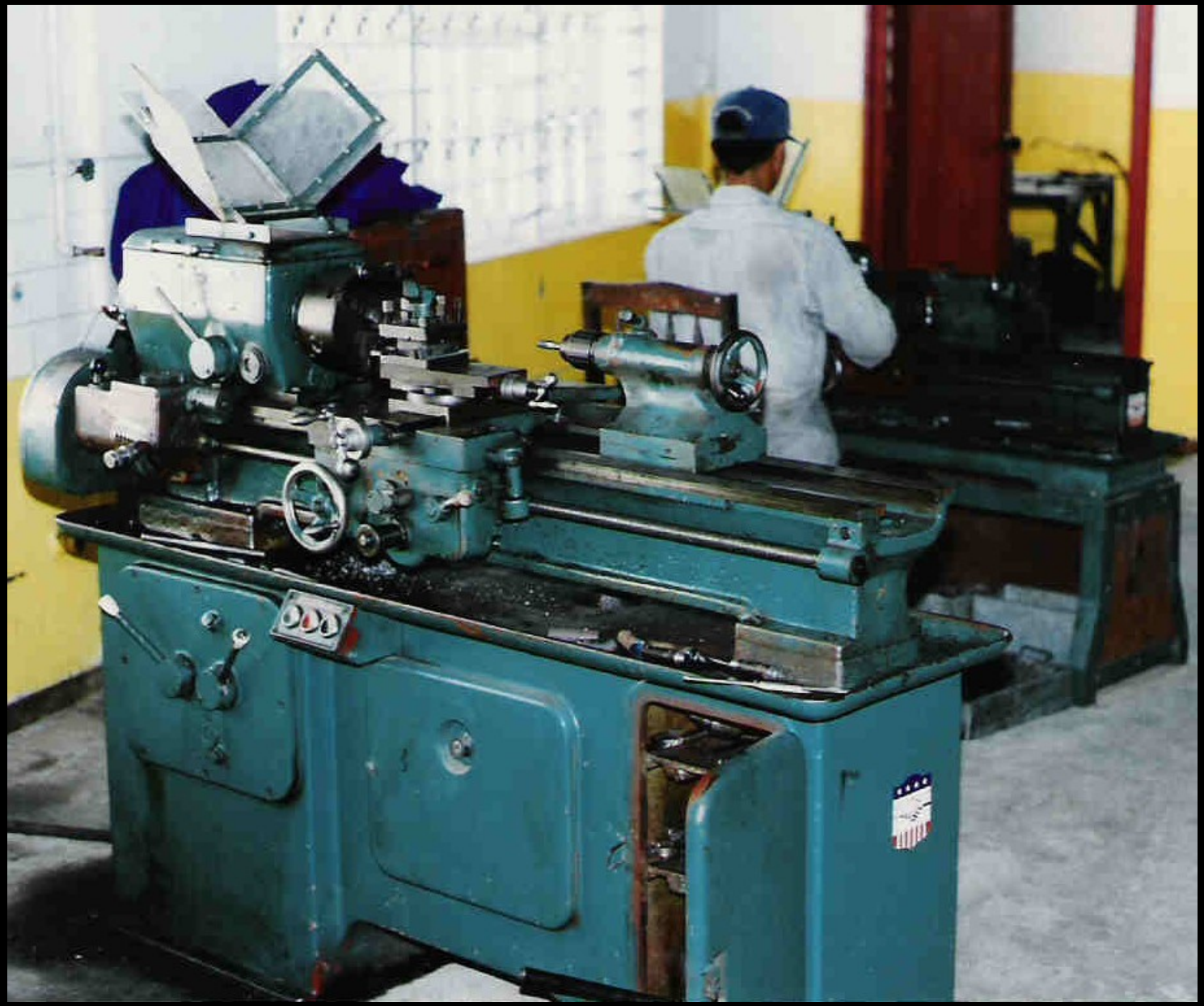
Landmine Victim Assistance

Landmine Victim Assistance

- Authorized by Title 10 Section 401
- Activities
  - Epidemiology and surveillance programs
  - Community education programs
  - First responder training
  - Surgical training (BRAVA)
  - Rehabilitation programs

MINES

NSPO



Disaster Relief

DISASTER RELIEF

- Preparedness
- Information and coordination
- Transportation (space available, funded)
- Food (HDRs)
- Water (production, distribution)
- Shelter (DC camps, excess property)
- Disease outbreak control
- Laboratory (micro, environmental)
- Logistics (cold chain, supplies)
- Medical care (emergency care)
- Mercy evacuations
- Environmental health, vector control

Information and Coordination

Rapid Assessments

- Identify requirements, local capabilities, gaps
- Avoid unnecessary and damaging assistance

Teams

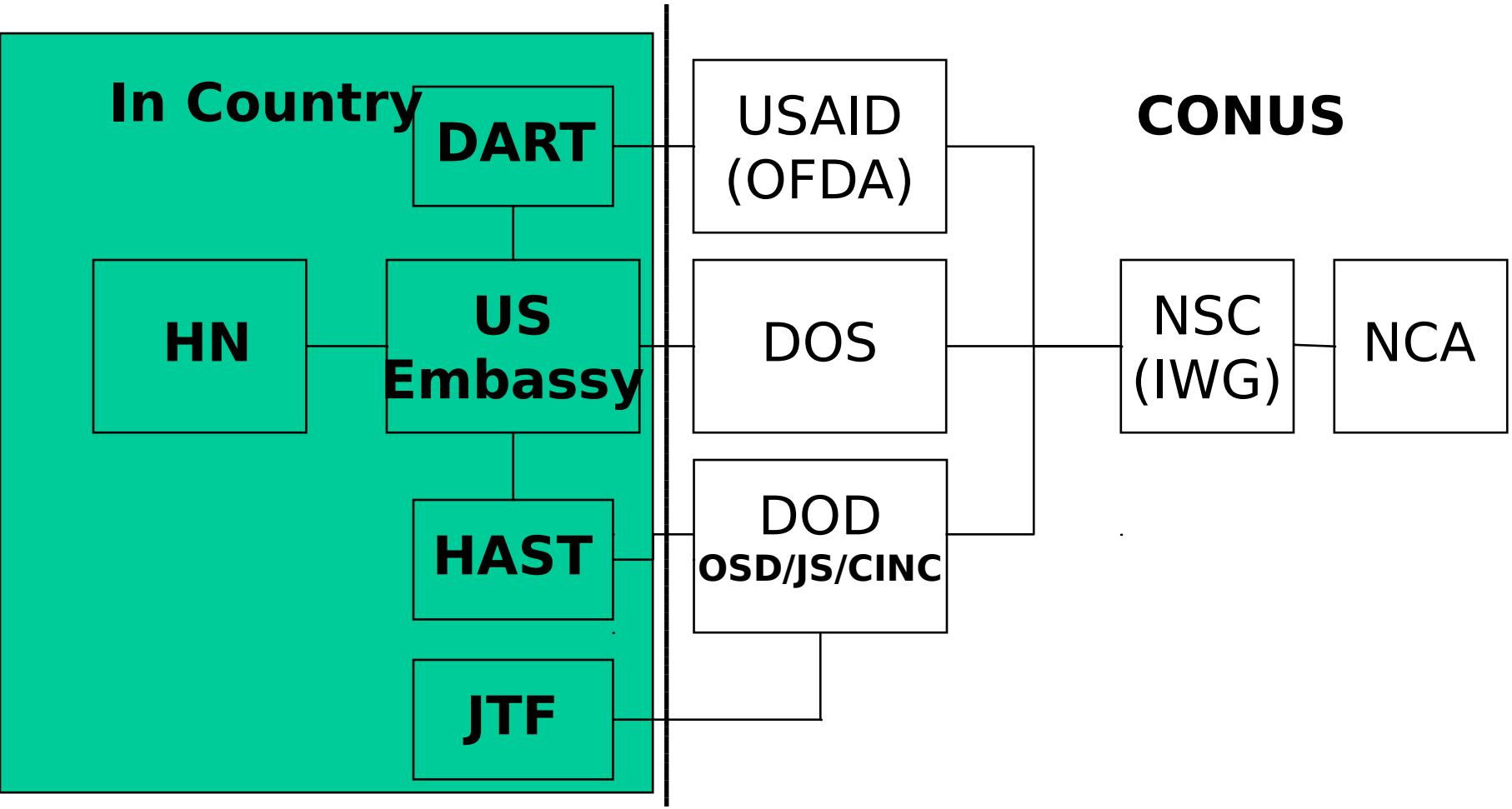
DART / OFDA

HAST / DOD

UNDAC / UN

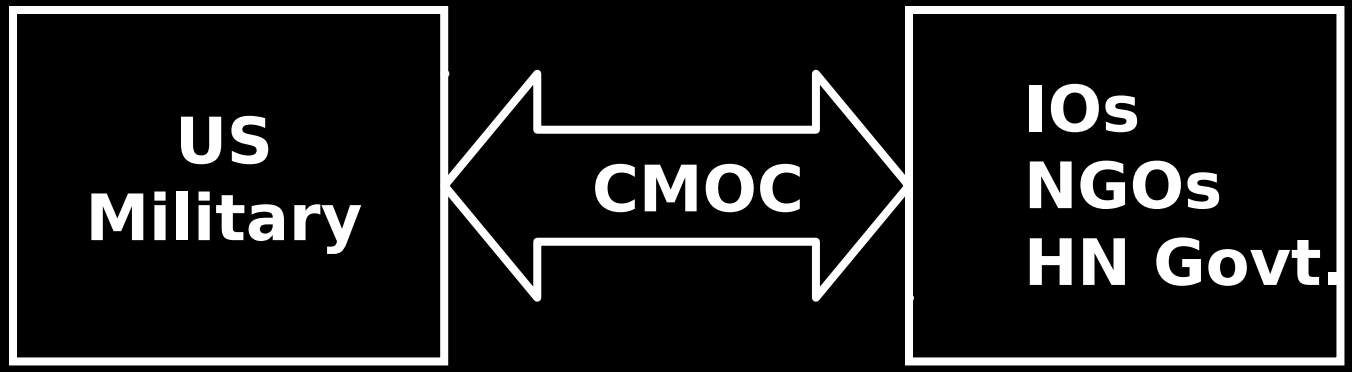
Specialized Surveys
Surveillance Systems

USG Disaster Relief Coordinat



Coordination

- Interagency Working Groups (IWG)
- US Country Team is in charge of US assets
- OFDA often coordinates US relief efforts (DART)
- Sectoral Meetings (health, wat/san, etc.)
- DoD Coordinating Mechanisms:
  HOC / HACC / CMOC (**Civil Affairs**)



Transportation

- Denton Space Available Program
- Funded Transportation Program

www.dentonfundedtransportation.com

Denton Space Available Transportation

- Program managed by DoD, DOS, USAID
- Authorized by Title 10 US Code Section 402
- Permits DoD transportation of privately donated humanitarian cargo to foreign countries using military transportation on a space-available basis
- No cost to the donating agency
- USG must certify that:
  - the project is in the national interest
  - material being transported is in usable condition
  - there are legitimate requirements for the material
  - there are adequate storage and distribution arrangements

Denton Space Available Transportation

Limitations

- Time of delivery cannot be guaranteed
- Medications must not be within 12 months of expiration
- No hazardous materials
- Must meet minimum load requirements
- Donor must pay for storage and distribution costs
- Donor must coordinate duty free or pay the duty charges

Funded Transportation Program

- Authorized by Title 10 USC Section 2561
- Permits and pays for the transportation of humanitarian cargo for NGOs and IOs
- Can use military or contract assets
- Not space available – thus can be timely and predictable
- Limitations:
  - Reserved for emergency situations
  - Generally surface transportation only
  - Cargo must address a basic humanitarian need (medical, shelter, food, clothing)
  - Minimum cargo is one 20-foot shipping container or 1100 cubic feet

Denton Space Available Transportation

Potential Pitfalls

- Donated items may be of poor quality or of little use in an emergency (winter coats following Hurricane Mitch) – garage sale items
- Ties up resources (staff, warehouse space, transportation assets) at the receiving end
- Medications:
  - Expired
  - “Used”
  - Questionable manufacturing quality
  - Different from what is used locally
  - Not in native language
  - Small quantities such as physician samples

Denton Space Available Transportation

Possible Fixes

- Donations must be based on validated requirements
- Follow WHO drug donation guidelines:
  - Be relevant to the disease pattern in the recipient country
  - Approved for use in the recipient country (appear on the HN or WHO list of essential drugs)
  - Strength, formulation similar to those used in the country
  - Obtained from a reliable source; comply with quality standards in the donor and recipient countries (WHO certification)
  - No pre-issued drugs or physician free samples
  - Remaining shelf life of at least one year after arrival
  - Labeled in a language that is understood by local providers
  - Large packaged quantities preferable over small quantities
  - Packaged in accordance with international shipping regulations and accompanied by a detailed packing list with quality documents and batch numbers

Possible Fixes

Use Emergency Health Kits

30 1:38 PM

Humanitarian Daily Rations (HDRs)

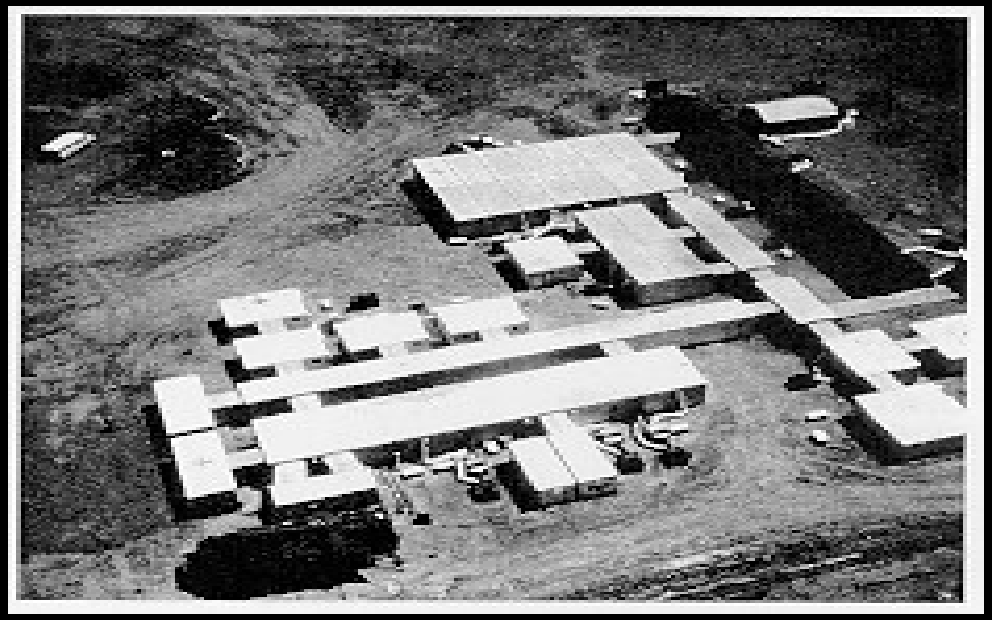
- 2300 KCals (1 per day)
- Meatless
- Ready to eat
- Can be air dropped
- Better than MREs for malnourished
- ½ price of MREs
- Over 8 million distributed (1996-2001)
- Now salmon colored

Acute Medical Care

- Assistance teams
- Field Hospitals
- Mercy Evacuations

Field Hospitals

- Pressure to quickly reestablish hospital-level care
- Tent hospitals frequently offered
- Low-risk way for countries to join coalitions
- Issues:
  - Arrive too late
  - Set up parallel care systems
  - Take local resources (space, water, power)
  - Some nations stay for long period without blessing of HN government
  - Others leave quickly and leave areas without care
- Better to help rebuild and enhance local system
- “Adopt a Hospital” concept



Mercy Evacuations

- Political and press pressure to evacuate severely ill/injured patients for advanced care
- Bosnia, Afghanistan, Iraq
- Issues:
  - Immigration
  - Unaccompanied minors
  - Military transport out of theater requires high-level approval
  - Will rapidly overwhelm resources
- Need a coherent and well-reasoned plan
- IOM program

Summary

Humanitarian Assistance, Disaster Relief, and other “Operations Other Than War” will likely continue to be a significant operational focus for US military medical forces

The U.S. military has a number of programs and funding streams dedicated to humanitarian assistance and disaster relief activities

Each program has limitations and nuances so learn the procedures and what you are permitted to do

HA/DR operations can be very successful if certain pitfalls can be avoided

References

Books

1. **War and Public Health: Handbook on War and Public Health**
   Dr. Pierre Perrin, ICRC Health Division, ISBN 2-88145-077-6

2. **Humanitarian Crises: The Medical and Public Health Response**
   Jennifer Leaning, Harvard Univ. Press, ISBN 0-674-15515-7

3. **War and Public Health**
   Barry Levy, Victor Sidel, Oxford Univ. Press, ISBN 0-19-510814-0

4. **The Public Health Consequences of Disasters**
   Eric Noji, Oxford Univ. Press, ISBN 0-19-509570-7

5. **The US Military/NGO Relationship in Humanitarian Interventions**
   Chris Seiple, Peacekeeping Institute

6. **Famine-Affected Refugee and Displaced Populations:**

References (II)

Web Sites

- Relief Web www.reliefweb.int
- Sphere Project www.sphereproject.org
- Center of Excellence http://website.tamc.amedd.army.mil/
- OFDA
  Main Page www.usaid.gov/hum_response/ofda
  Field Ops Guide www.usaid.gov/ofda/fog/

Courses

- Health Emergencies in Large Populations (HELP)
- Combined Humanitarian Assistance Response Training (CHAR
- Pediatric Humanitarian Assistance Course (USUHS)

Questions?